

**Small Group Questions**  
**Collide: Love meets Favoritism**  
**10/30/11**

**Getting Started...**

Who was your best friend growing up? Why was he/she your best friend?  
What was it about him/her that you really liked?

**Going Deeper...**

*Read James 2:1-4*

Describe some present day scenarios that would be similar to those that the people in the book of James are experiencing (vs. 2-3).

Have you ever favored someone or have you ever been favored? What was it like?

Besides economic status, what other differences and characteristics make us prone to lean toward one person over another? Do any of those tendencies show up in you?

*Read James 2:5-7*

What does it mean to be "poor in the eyes of the world"? Is this only financially or is there more to it?

How would you describe someone who is rich in faith? Is it possible to be rich financially and to be rich in faith?

The scriptures call us to see our brothers and sisters in Christ differently than the world, not by their material advantages, but by their spiritual identity (vs 5-7). Can you find 5 or more biblical statements about who we are in Christ that you can use to shape how you see yourself and others more, and help you defeat any favoritism or partiality in your own heart?

*Read James 2:8-13*

The book of James is full of deeply serious topics. Chapter 1 finished by essentially saying if you don't bridle your tongue your religion is a sham. In chapter 2:1-13 he is very clear to state that we are in sin and convicted by the law to be lawbreakers when we show favoritism. What is it that is so serious about favoritism? (See vs 4, 5-11)

What sins do we commit against each other and God when we show favoritism?

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Pastor Ronn Smith

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Consider the significance of verse 10. How does it shape your thinking about the law of God? How does it affect how you would talk to someone who thinks their good works will get them right with God?

### ***Three reasons why we should never play favorites:***

1) Favoritism leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

If the audience of James is primarily Christians who are not under Law but under Grace, as Paul teaches, what do you think God's design was behind having him write verses 10-13?

2) Favoritism is \_\_\_\_\_ to who God is.

In verse 12, James calls the law of God the "Law of Liberty" or "The Law that gives freedom" in some translations. Most often we think of rules as confining and restricting. How would you explain to someone that God's law gives freedom?

3) Favoritism is \_\_\_\_\_ to what we are \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

### **Take it home...**

What have you found in these verses that you will take with you? How do you plan to keep it in your memory to help you grow?